

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, and 7-10 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 5 and 6 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 4 herewith are amended. Claims presently active are claims 1, 3-4, and 7-10.

Claims 1, 3-4, and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimoto et al. in view of Nomura et al. and Grendol. The rejection is traversed. It is the conclusion of the Examiner that "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have modified the apparatus of Kimoto as such to have made the mold from cast-epoxy and thermosetting material...." The Examiner also concludes, "It also would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have modified the apparatus of Kimoto to have two ejector pins because this would allow for the mold to open and the product removed from the mold..." and, to modify "the apparatus of Kimoto as such to have made the pressure relief valve adjustable...."

Applicants take the position that Kimoto et al. does not dispose the operating pin of the valve at the mold parting line. See for example, Figure 11, which requires separating the mold halves to remove resin from the second resin flow path. After the mold halves are separated, the valve has to be removed to then remove resin from the remainder of the second flow path and around the valve. Figure 12 requires removing the valve to access the second resin flow path to remove resin from the second resin flow path. Kimoto et al. thus differ from the present invention which places the valve pin at the mold separation line.

In the present invention, the resin in the second resin flow path is accessible when the mold halves are separated without disturbing the valve. After unblocking operation, the valve automatically resets when the pressure permits. In addition, the valve can be adjusted via

adjustment screw 48 for different materials. Kimito et al. does not have an adjustment screw.

Claim 1 now requires an adjustable pressure relief valve having a movable pin disposed on the mold parting line proximate to the terminal end portion of the first molten resin flow path and proximate the second molten resin flow path.

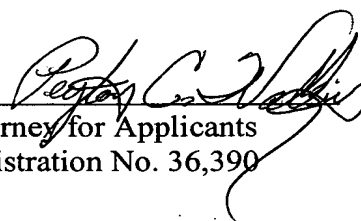
In view of the foregoing, it follows that the subject matter of the claims would not have been obvious over Kimoto et al. in view of Nomura et al. and Grendol at the time the invention was made.

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and believe that singly or in any suitable combination, they do not render Applicants' claimed invention unpatentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, claims 1, 3-4, and 7-10 are now deemed allowable and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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